

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 IGA-01 /084 W

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R 130521Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2881

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 1773

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, LA

SUBJECT: LAO FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS "FAVORABLY" ON U.S.-LAO
RELATIONS

1. THE LEFT-LEANING VIENTIANE POST MARCH 12 CARRIED SUMMARY
OF AN INTERVIEW WHICH LAO FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT
RECENTLY GAVE TO A CORRESPONDENT OF LE FIGARO. IN IT, PHOUMI
REFERRED FAVORABLY (BY LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT STANDARDS) TO
U.S.-LAO RELATIONS. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSLATION OF RELEVANT
PARAGRAPH:

2. QUOTE - THE MINISTER NOTABLY DECLARED THAT SINCE THE
AMERICANS AUTHORIZED THE VIENTIANE SIDE TO SIGN THE PEACE
AGREEMENT, THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN LAO AND AMERICANS
HAS LESSENERED. MOREOVER, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS CONFIRMED
THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE PROVISIONAL GOVERN-
MENT OF NATIONAL UNION LED BY HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE
SOUVANNA PHOUMA. IT WILL NOT COLLABORATE IN ANY WAY
WITH LAO REACTIONARIES TO UPSET THE LAO GOVERNMENT AND
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TO PROVOKE TROUBLE IN LAOS. ALL THIS HAS LED THE LAO

POPULATION (WHO) SUPPORT PEACE AND JUSTICE TO BELIEVE
IN THE SINCERITY OF THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN THEY
DID BEFORE. UNQUOTE

3. THE PATHET LAO BULLETIN OF MARCH 11 ALSO TREATS
PHOUMI'S INTERVIEW (WHICH IT SAYS TOOK PLACE ON FEBRUARY
22). ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION, PHOUMI ALSO POINTED
OUT TO LE FIGARO THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES ASSISTANCE TO
THE VIENTIANE FORCES. PHOUMI ADDED THAT PGNU HAS
ASKED U.S. AND OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS TO INCREASE ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO HEAL WOUNDS CAUSED BY WAR AND
BUILD THE NATION. SUCH ASSISTANCE, HE SAID, SHOULD BE
UNCONDITIONAL AND GIVEN DIRECTLY TO PGNU, WHICH WILL
DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF AID WILL BE OF GREATEST BENEFIT
TO THE POPULATION.

4. COMMENT: PHOUMI'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE U.S.
ARE ENCOURAGING IN THAT THEY ARE THE MOST POSITIVE TO
DATE.
WHITEHOUSEANR

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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